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Ice storm coverage page 2 Remembering Scotty Morrison page 3 Highlands East fire needs page 13

Connecting the past to the future at JDH

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While some pieces of the past are better left in the rear view mirror, others are important to carry forward, and share with future generations.

Alex Labelle started building birch bark canoes at the age of five. As a Métis canoe builder of Algonquin ancestry from Mattawa, Ontario, the young boat builder learned the craft from his grandfather, Marcel Labelle. "My grandparents were my daycare," laughed Alex as he whittled away at a sharp piece of cedar. "I was always interested in what my grandfather was doing."

In early March, Alex spent five days at J. Douglas Hodgson (JDH) Elementary School, where he set up shop in the main lobby of the school, building a four-foot birch bark canoe. Staff and students from both JDH and Stuart Baker Elementary School spent the week visiting the site, and engaging with Alex as the canoe

see BIRCH BARK page 13

Alex Labelle, a Métis canoe builder, came to visit JDH Elementary School in early March to teach the students how to build a birch bark canoe. The week-long process engaged staff and students throughout the duration of the build. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Another ice storm for Haliburton County

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While Haliburton County was greeted with a crisp sunrise the morning of March 12, the aftermath of the previous day's ice storm was still in full effect.

The storm slammed the County during the early morning hours of March 11, with power outages across the region and a significant accumulation of ice along the roadways.

Local students got their wish with not only a school closure, but the complete cancellation of all Haliburton County schools, including online learning. "We know this is an unusual circumstance," said Carolynne Bull, manager of communications for the school board, "and we appreciate parents and guardians for their understanding during this time."

It's been nearly one full year since the ice storm that hit the region last year, leaving thousands without power or internet for days.

The day before this year's storm, Minden Mayor Bob Carter met with Parks Canada and Environment Canada to discuss the expectations. "Environment Canada warned that this could be the most significant storm of the winter," said Carter. "It all depends on the temperatures. One or two degrees could make a big difference."

Prior to the storm, the County of Haliburton, alongside each lower-tier municipality opted to declare a significant weather event as of 2 p.m. on March 10.

"A series of low pressure systems will lead to significant freezing rain across parts of Southern Ontario. Freezing rain may fall heavily at times. Precipitation may not freeze immediately, which may lead to localized flooding in low-lying areas," read the press release sent out by Algonquin Highlands in light of the declaration. "Roads and walkways will likely become icy and slippery. Prolonged utility outages are likely. Significant damage to property, including some buildings and trees, is likely due to the weight of ice."

With a declaration in place, it allows for some leniency in winter maintenance, ensuring that township staff safety is put on the forefront. "Municipal workforces will continue to provide maintenance operations, but for safety considerations, operations may need to be temporarily suspended," noted Algonquin Highlands.

The scheduled County Council meeting, though virtual, opted to cancel their March 11 meeting in light of the widespread power outages. The agenda items have been added to the next meeting, set for March 25.

Bianca Pizzo, a media rep for Hydro One, confirmed that across Ontario, there were over 500 major outages, impacting over 30,000 customers. "Eastern Ontario was hit the hardest," she noted. "What we are seeing is the high winds knocked down branches and poles even after the storm."

While many across the County remained in the dark for days, Pizzo noted that the estimated restoration time varied based on the individual incidents. "As our crews arrive on scene, they assess the damage," she said. "So those times do tend to change as they survey the area."

Pizzo noted that the day following the storm, Hydro One crews were "out in full force" in an effort to restore power promptly across the County.

The vast majority of Highlands East were without power, resulting in Cardiff School announcing a second day of cancelled classes on March 12, as well as the Cardiff Library staying closed until power was restored.

In light of the storm, warming centres were opened in Wilberforce, Gooderham, Cardiff, and Highland Grove.

This is the time of year where traditionally, Minden starts to prepare for flood season. While the icy rain makes travel dicey, it proves somewhat useful in the gradual thaw needed to maintain water levels. "We looked at six or seven lakes around the area, and they're all below average depths for water levels right now," confirmed Mayor Carter. "The lakes are big storage puddles, and right now we have room to store."

Carter noted that when there is a gradual thaw, as has been demonstrated this year thus far, the water systems have time to adapt to the influx of melting snow.

"Unfortunately this is all part of climate change," he said. "The weather is getting more and more unpredictable."

Ice storms across the County resulted in power outages for multiple days. /photo by Jamie Mason

While the ice storm was fairly short lived, power outages and snapped hydro lines resulted in problems across the County. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The stories of Scotty

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A young Scotty Morrison, shared by the Hockey Hall of Fame. /submitted

When news hit that Scotty Morrison had passed away at the age of 95 at the end of February, I knew I needed to write a story.

As a Haliburton local, Morrison's name was one I'd been hearing my entire life. Through his efforts in the volunteer world, his contributions to the sport of hockey, his impact on the many organizations he was associated with over the years.

But the hardest part, with a story like this, is where to begin.

When one life touches so many, how do you hone in on one area of focus? I put out my feelers. Connected with the many who had crossed paths with him over his lifetime. Through that, they connected me with many more. Soon, the story had snowballed. The snippets I had of his life began to come into focus, the black and white words I read on a screen had colour added to them; signs of a life well lived.

Before long, community members were reaching out to me. Asking where the story was. He did so much. He deserves recognition. Make sure he gets it.

And no one was wrong. But I began to feel like one story wasn't enough.

For all the contributions he made, for the legacy he created.

So, it took time. Time to whittle down the many words used to describe Scotty Morrison. Kind. Patient. Compassionate. Gentle. Devoted.

Time to sift through photos that captured so many moments of joy.

Time to sit with the people who knew him, the ones who called him a friend.

And I still feel that I am only scraping the surface.

The life of Scotty Morrison started in Montreal, Quebec, in the year 1930. As a kid, he instantly fell in love with the sport of hockey. While playing in junior leagues, Morrison started refereeing, and quickly took to the role. He moved to Vancouver to work in the Western Hockey League, before being hired by the National Hockey League (NHL) at the age of 24, making him the youngest ref in league history at that time.

By 1964 he had returned to Ontario, and was referee-in-chief for the NHL, before becoming the vice-president of officiating in 1981. In 1986, he was promoted as vice-president of project development, taking the lead for the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. He was instrumental in moving the site to its current location, and expanding the offerings at the venue to become the destination it is today.

Morrison is one of ten recipients of the Wayne Gretzky International Award, highlighting his significant contribution to hockey, and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1999. He spent over 20 years as a Stanley Cup trustee, before retiring from the role in 2023.

And that's just scraping the surface.

Because there was so much more to Scotty Morrison than his professional career. A husband, a father, a friend. "He was a genuine gentleman," said Carol Moffatt, who grew up alongside Morrison and his family. "He was a very quiet, steady presence. He had nothing to prove, and everything to offer."

Hailing from Etobicoke area, Scotty and his wife, Joan, had eight children. In 1982, Morrison's son, Perry, was one of 84 workers who died on the Ocean Ranger, an oil drilling rig off the coast of Newfoundland; an accident which left no survivors.

Moffatt shared that her brother passed away when he was a teen in a motorcycle accident.

And the shared experience of losing a child was a tether that held the families close. "It was always an unspoken thread between my dad and Scotty," said Moffatt, "something they had both experienced."

Morrison and his family had a cottage up in the Haliburton Highlands for many years, settling in the Kennisis Lake area. He quickly made the area home, diving headfirst into any volunteer opportunities that presented a chance to give back.

"Scotty was very active in supporting our community," said Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey. "He was a long time property owner at Kennisis Lake, and was extremely supportive of our community. I valued him as a friend, and certainly he will be missed but not forgotten."

Many would remember the Scotty Morrison Hockey Tournament, which ran for seven years and raised over $200,000 net in its history. The fundraiser was designed for Community Care Haliburton County, which became part of Haliburton Highlands Health Services in 2014.

This was how Roxanne Casey came to know Morrison. "He was just such a nice man," said the manager of Canoe FM, who worked alongside Morrison during her days with Community Care. "A total gentleman, a lovely, soft-spoken man."

Casey noted that Morrison felt that the tournament was a good way to give back to the community. Sitting on the organization committee as an honourary chair, Morrison facilitated the ins and outs of the fundraiser until 2016. "He never spoke unless he had something really important to say," said Casey. "But when he did, we listened. We always listened to what he had to say, because you just knew it was important."

While the hockey tournament came to a close in 2016, Morrison continued to support the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. He was often seen alongside NHL player and local legend Matt Duchene, who headlines the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic. "Anytime I was around him, he was such a light," said Duchene during a recent interview. "Just an extremely nice, genuine man who was always smiling and had something supportive to say. He was a tremendous person."

Scotty Morrison passed away at the age of 95, on Feb. 25, 2026 in Invermere, British Columbia. Tributes to the hockey great poured in from the NHL, the Hockey Hall of Fame, the *Globe and Mail*, and *SportsNet*, to name a few.

But, it was only scraping the surface of who he really was. Because Morrison lived many lives. A hockey player, a referee, a consultant, a leader. He was a father, a devoted husband, a friend to many. A volunteer, a doer, a dreamer, and a go-getter.

How do you capture that in one story?

The short answer: you don't. But you follow the breadcrumbs. You trace the tracks. Every person who has a story knows five other people who may know more, and the story continues to build. And to me, that's the real story. Not the words on paper, the links to news articles, the social media posts.

It's the weaving and winding stories from the heart, where Scotty Morrison connected a community through care, through consideration, through compassion.

And that way, his stories will always be told.

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Luck of the Irish

The Wilberforce Legion held a St. Patrick's Day Dance this past weekend, with good music, drinks, and plenty of green decorations. /TIM YANO staff photographer

A snapshot of HHHS; new X–ray machine lands in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is continuing to implement programs and upgrades in an effort to offer improved services to the County.

On March 11, the organization announced that they have officially purchased a new X-ray system for their diagnostic imaging wing.

The current system has been in place since 2014, With technological advancements taken into consideration, the new, fully-community funded machine will be significant for HHHS. "One of the system's key advantages is advanced automation, which simplifies positioning by allowing the X-ray tube and detector to move automatically into preset exam positions," said Lauren Ernst, the chief communications officer for HHHS, "enabling technologists to set up exams quickly and consistently."

In a HHHS press release, it was noted that the system also introduces Virtual Ortho, an advanced imaging application that creates long-length orthopedic images, such as full spine or lower-limb studies. It does this by seamlessly stitching together multiple X-ray exposures into a single high-quality image for accurate measurement, diagnosis, and pre-operative planning.

It was noted that historically, patients seeking this type of care were referred to Lindsay or Peterborough, but with this capability now available locally, patients can access this important diagnostic service closer to home, reducing the need for travel.

"Our community continues to show what's possible when people come together," said executive director of the HHHS Foundation, Melanie Klodt Wong. "Thanks to the generosity of donors through the Here for You in the Highlands campaign, this new X-ray machine will help ensure patients can access the care they need when they need it."

The X-ray update comes fresh on the heels of an announcement from HHHS around their newly launched virtual simulation program collaboration.

On March 2, HHHS sent out a press release noting that they have officially partnered up with the Lakeridge Health Education and Research Network to launch an Emergency Department (ED) Virtual Simulation Education Program for the 2025/26 year.

"This program represents an exciting step forward in how we prepare healthcare teams," said full-time Haliburton ED physician, Dr. Harrison Bishop. "By aligning simulation training with real-world rural practice, we are building stronger, more confident teams and ultimately enhancing care for our communities."

According to the press release from HHHS, the program will focus on multidisciplinary teamwork, critical thinking, and clearly defined clinical roles through scenario-based simulations, which will reflect the realities of rural emergency department practice. The intention is to offer insight and experience around decision-making, communication, and coordinated responses in an effort to mirror the way they actually practice.

The program is supported by Dr. Adam Dubrowski, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Healthcare Simulation at Ontario Tech University. As founder of the maxSIMhealth Living Laboratory, the HHHS press release noted that Dr. Dubrowski is internationally recognized for advancing simulation-based healthcare training. "His research leadership and collaborative work have been instrumental in bringing this virtual simulation model to life," said Ernst. "Leaders believe this proof-of-concept initiative has the potential to redefine simulation training accessibility and effectiveness for rural emergency departments."

While HHHS is moving forward, they are also saying goodbye to interim president and CEO, Jennifer Burns West. In a release shared in early March, board member Irene Odell shared that Burns West would be stepping down upon the new arrival of HHHS CEO Jack Hutchison on March 30.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank Jennifer for her strong and steady leadership during this important time," said Odell. "Her dedication to our team and community has been deeply valued."

"It has been a true privilege to lead HHHS," said Burns West. "I am incredibly proud of this organization and grateful to our staff, physicians, volunteers, and community. I look forward to watching HHHS continue to thrive under Jack's steady leadership."

The Haliburton County Home Builders' Association is offering a Job Fair day at HHSS for students attending the Haliburton County Schools. Looking for employers to participate!

JOB FAIR DAY 2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
8:30 AM TO 2:00 PM

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Gym

HHSS RED HAWKS

Job Fair Day will be an event where businesses of all different sizes and industries from across Haliburton County will be on display in the high school gym for students to meet and learn what is available *close to home.* This is a perfect place for students to bring their resumes and talk to employers about co-op jobs, volunteer positions, summer jobs or post secondary employment.

This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

To book your space contact Aggie Tose at 705-457-6901 or by email at info@hchba.ca

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The 2026 Census: a flexible secondary career

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

For a nation to know its inhabitants, the census is a necessity.

The first census conducted in what we now know as Canada was conducted by Jean Talon in 1666, who recorded age, sex, and marital status of New France's 3,215 colonists. At the time, Talon conducted the census personally, far from the digital questionnaires utilized today.

Over the years leading to the establishment of Canada as a country, censuses were conducted, to determine size of population, number of household armaments, or assessing the number of resources..

Like many countries, the census is integral to the history of Canada. To keep up a consistent record, the census is taken every five years.

"The Census collects demographic, social and economic information from households, painting a portrait of Canada's diverse population and the places where we live," said Cristobal D'Alessio, communications officer for Statistics Canada over email correspondence. "It provides high-quality information that can help Canadians make important decisions for their families, their communities and their businesses."

This year marks the 24th census collected as a nation of Canada.

The data that is collected from the census is used by many. Businesses, associations, Indigenous communities, social service organizations, and even journalists use it to make important decisions and become more informed about the community around them.

"The information provided ensures that the 2026 Census of Population accurately reflects Canada's changing society," said D'Alessio. "Census data ensure that communities have the information they need to plan the services and programs that matter most to Canadians like employment, education, public transportation and health care."

While the census reveals data about communities from across Canada, for small, rural communities, it is the most comprehensive set of data collected about our inhabitants.

Municipal governments can use this data to identify areas of growth, stability, or decline as well as the age of its inhabitants and types of families. This data can be used to make better choices towards things like emergency services and schools.

Households in Ontario will be receiving a letter in the mail in early May. This will provide information on how to complete the census questionnaire online. The questionnaire can also be completed over the phone or physically using paper.

In the event that someone does not respond to the census questionnaire, a Statistics Canada employee will visit your household.

The census is a huge undertaking, says D'Alessio. Roughly 30,000 employees are needed to assist with completing the census.

Currently their National Recruitment Campaign is seeking those aged 18+ for enumerator and supervisory positions.

As an enumerator, you will go door-to-door visiting households to ensure people received their census invitation letter and help those who have not completed it yet.

"We expect enumerators to be flexible and to work between 20 and 40 hours a week, including evenings and weekends," said D'Alessio. "This is perfect as a part-time job or a second temporary job."

Statistics Canada is also hiring virtual call centre staff who will work from home.

D'Alessio says that not only is the job flexible, but you also gain valuable work experience while contributing to something meaningful and important for your community and for the country.

All census data is intended for the public to view and use. In the 2021 census, data was released 18 months after Census Day.

Since 2021, the population of Haliburton County has increased, mostly from migration within Ontario, says D'Alessio. According to the latest estimates from 2025, our population has increased from 21,252 to 23,228.

Yet, our death rate is outpacing the birth rate.

"According to the most recent population projections for census divisions and subdivisions, the total population in the census division of Haliburton could increase from 23,228 in 2025 to between 25,775 (low-growth scenario) and 31,577 (high-growth scenario) in 2050," said D'Alessio. "In all projection scenarios, increases in the number of people aged 65 years and over would be the main driver of population growth."

This is just one small indicator of the future that the census can assist with.

The census is expected to be completed in July. If you are interested in contributing to the process, you can apply now at www.census.gc.ca/jobs.

Fleming CREW; supporting local employment with job fairs

Fleming CREW Employment Centre is hosting two job fairs in Haliburton and Minden, creating direct pathways to employment for local community members. These events connect job seekers with employers, offering opportunities for in-person connections and accelerated hiring.

At the Fleming CREW job fairs, employers will actively recruit for open positions and speak with attendees about their businesses and potential career paths. Fleming CREW staff will also be on-site to support job seekers with resume and cover letter development, tips for speaking with employers, and guidance on navigating the hiring process with confidence. Staff can also assist employers in tailoring recruitment strategies and hiring solutions.

Upcoming Fleming CREW job fairs:

Haliburton Job Fair
Tuesday, March 24
1 to 5:30 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129
719 Mountain St., Haliburton

Minden Job Fair
Wednesday, April 8
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Minden Community Centre
55 Parkside St., Minden

Employers interested in participating in a Fleming CREW job fair can contact Fleming CREW Employment Centre at flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca or 705-457-2020 to secure a space. Learn more: flemingcrew.ca

About Fleming CREW Employment Centre

For more than 30 years, Fleming CREW Employment Centre has provided unemployed, under-employed, or laid-off job seekers and local employers with free job search, skills training, and recruitment solutions that build strong, inclusive, and diverse, work environments in Haliburton County.

Fleming CREW is managed by Muskoka-Kawarthas Employment Services, a division of Fleming College, and funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

About Fleming College

About Fleming College Fleming College respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg lands and territory. Located in the heart of Central Ontario, Fleming College has campus locations in Peterborough, Lindsay, Cobourg and Haliburton. Named for famous Canadian inventor and engineer Sir Sandford Fleming, the college features more than 85 full-time programs in Arts and Heritage, Business, Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences, General Arts and Sciences, Health and Wellness, Community Services, Skilled Trades and Technology, and Continuing Education. Fleming College has more than 8,500 full-time and 445 part-time students, and 95,000 alumni.

Submitted

points of view

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Two degrees

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

ONE OR two degrees. That's the only difference between a cozy rainy day and a declaration of a significant weather event.

While we tweak and adjust our thermostats to meet our needs, that teeny tiny separation between one or two degrees can make or break a community.

When I spoke to Minden Mayor Bob Carter last week about the pending ice storm, he confirmed that all of Ontario was set to be slammed, but the variance in temperatures in either direction would dictate exactly what would fall from the skies.

And not a significant variance. One or two degrees.

That's it.

You'll often hear climate change deniers laugh at 'global warming'. They'll quip about how they could use a little extra warmth during the drudges of a cold snap. Or how seasons come with their own shares of highs and lows, always have, always will.

But climate change isn't a massive shift in temperatures. It's not the highest of the highs or the lowest of the lows.

It's one or two degrees.

It's gradual, it's glacial, it's almost gentle.

But it's there. Those one or two degrees.

And while they may not seem like a big deal, I suggest looking out your window.

Because those one or two degrees just shut down a whole town. Multiple towns, all over the province. Businesses lost a day of profit, students lost a day of learning. Hydro workers left the warmth of their homes to brave the roads, township staff worked overtime to keep the world moving.

And now, we wait.

We're still sitting in fear from the ice storm that slammed our community, nearly one year ago now. We all saw it coming, yet somehow, no one was fully prepared. Many called it the worst ice storm in decades. But here we are, less than 365 days later, faced with the fear again.

That's not a coincidence.

That's climate change. That's one or two degrees, making all the difference between a cozy rainy day and a declaration of a significant weather event.

Unfortunately, there's not an immediate solution to this problem. We will likely adapt and evolve as needed as a species, as we have for centuries before.

Or maybe that one or two degrees will continue to climb. Gradual, glacial, almost gentle.

We won't notice it in our day to day, until we do. We'll pretend it's not happening, until it does. We'll assume it will all work out, until it won't.

We can no longer deny that climate change is real. That it's happening right in front of us.

So maybe the first step is just recognizing that, and making every effort to be prepared, for those one or two degrees.

I Am Crone, Hear Me Roar

Poke, Peel Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

WHO IS most likely to have time, energy and motivation to save the world from going to hell in a handbasket?

I'm gonna say Crones.

Here's why.

They are past their assigned usefulness, so they have time. And invisibility, which may be an asset in the planning stages.

They have had the advantage of living in a (more or less) evolved society, so they're relatively hale and hearty. In any case, they are well-practiced in doing the necessary even when they're exhausted.

They are accustomed to cleaning up the messes of others, and they might want to do it on their own terms for once, a matter of choice rather than duty. The sense of praxis, an 'I' that can 'do', that which Paulo Freire says differentiates mankind from domesticated animals (*Pedagogy of the Oppressed,* published 1972), is high octane fuel.

Here's what I think we Crones should do for the salvation of society:

We should retire from assigned tasks. We should take a page from my father's benediction when I set off for university: "I've done my best for 18 years; time now to see how good a job I did." We've been nurturing and training and cajoling and mentoring and modelling for a few decades; time to stop doing and start watching the seedlings, the embers.

We should set aside the broom and dishrag and take to our easy chairs or our garden nooks and read deeply and thoughtfully. We should gobble up knowledge like a bear building fat for hibernation. We might have to make like a mama bear to protect our project, but that's good practice for what might await.

We should gather with like-minded Crones to "fuse vision and language into a single circuit for understanding' (Rick Lash, *Toronto Star*, Jan 17/26, cited in my *Unhinged* column). The goal is to build collectively an alternative vision of the world that can inspire new choices.

I was thinking, women have done this before, we should build on their experience. I thought about women taking over the workforce when the men went off the more important work of war.

But then I thought about Lysistrata, who organized the women of ancient Greece to withhold sex until their men agreed to stop a long and pointless Peloponnesian War. A sex strike. It worked.

Well, withholding sex is not exactly our strong suit as crones. We do, however, have our labour. Our unpaid labour. Our world runs on volunteer labour; it would crumble in a week – heck, days! – if it was withheld. That could set the stage for a reasoned conversation about an alternative world view that inspired new choices.

It could.

Lysistrata's strategy was quite complex, but at base she organized women to use what they had to make the changes they wanted in their society. She had roles for the young women – withholding sex – and for old women: they took over the Acropolis which is where the treasury was located.

I'm saying our volunteered labour is the community treasury.

Lysistrata's objective was not achieved one-and-done; it required subsequent action that brought men to the point of desperation where they could hear women say they deserved to be heard. And furthermore, that women offered a perspective that enriched understanding and strategy. They required respect if men wanted what they had, whatever kind of labour it was.

What does this old story have to teach us now?

Maybe, to invoke Joni Mitchell, that people tend not to appreciate what they have till it's gone. Maybe that a smack upside the head may be necessary to initiate a respectful discussion that acknowledges mutual contribution and accountability. Maybe that through deep thought and careful conversation – the hallmarks of respect -- we can come to agreement about a different world view that evokes different behaviour to create a better world.

It shouldn't be women's work to set the stage for those conversations, but it's in the bailiwick of what we do, and if it needs to be done … then let's do it.

points of view

My cup runneth under

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

THIS MORNING, I got up at the crack of dawn, walked the dog, and made myself a cup of coffee. To be clear, I did not make the cup of coffee while walking the dog. I am not that good at multi-tasking. No, I fixed myself a cup of coffee when I returned from the walk. Then, I placed it on the dining room table and went to find the book I am currently into. I do this every morning, to create the illusion of intelligence for Jenn to see when she gets up.

Unfortunately, when I returned, I noticed that coffee was spilled all around my favourite mug, so I put down my book and crayons and evaluated the scene.

I knew I didn't do it. So, I did the only thing a person can do at a time like this. I blamed one of the cats. OK, both cats.

On further inspection, however, it became clear that my mug had a hairline crack in it and was hemorrhaging coffee at an alarming rate. (Yes, it was three drops a minute, but have you seen the price of coffee lately?")

At times like this, you immediately ask yourself the obvious questions. How did the cats manage to put a hairline crack my favourite coffee mug? And why?

The why part is easily answered – they're cats.

The how part still eludes me, however. I mean, I did a perfunctory search for little cat-sized mallets and chisels that they might have fashioned that time they got into the garage. But none of these things were to be seen.

"You got away with it this time," I muttered, as I looked at the mug.

"Are you accusing me of breaking your favourite mug?" Jenn asked.

"Of course not. That would be crazy," I said. "I'm talking to the cats ..."

I then headed into the garage. But not before I grabbed my favourite mug.

When I emerged again 15 minutes later, it was repaired.

Not to brag, but the fix was so flawless I am still considering creating a YouTube video detailing it.

Of course, Jenn didn't see it that way.

Her exact words were "Why does that roll of duct tape have a handle?"

"That's my mug," I pointed out. "Good as new!"

I soon learned the difference in the way men and women view the phrase, "Good as new."

For, Jenn decided unilaterally that it was time for me to say goodbye to my favourite mug, which she noted had a productive life.

"Eight years is a long life for a mug," she said as she patted me on the back. "It's time to move on."

"It was a good mug," I lamented. "We drank a lot of coffee together."

She then told me that she saw one just like it in one of the shops in town.

It turned out she was not lying. There was another cup identical to the one that I had, so I wouldn't have to learn all over again. And it was reasonably priced too.

So, I bought one. Tomorrow morning, I will fill it up with its first cup of coffee and put it through the paces.

I guess the morals of the story are that sometimes life is full of surprises, nothing lasts forever, and all good things eventually come to an end.

Sooner, if you have cats …

pic *of the* past

The Kosy Korner celebrated 90 years in business this winter. We ran this photo in our *Echo* pages when they celebrated 75 years, but we thought it was such a classic, we had to bring it back. We do not have anyone identified in the original photo. If you have any details, please send them to emily@haliburtonpress.com to update our archives.

Winter

Tales from the great

Lynda Shadbolt

Green meadow

CANADIANS ARE a resilient people. Every year we live through the long winter season and all that it brings: deep snow, icy winds, and long, dark nights. And winter also invites us to be active in all kinds of ways. We skate on frozen lakes, ski through quiet forests and down hills, snowshoe along trails in the woods, build snowmen and gather in arenas for hockey and curling. Many of us shovel driveways before sunrise or spend the day ice fishing on a frozen lake.

Winter offers us both opportunities and challenges. But alongside this spirit of activity, winter also offers a quieter invitation - one that many of us overlook. The natural world slows down during the colder months, and traditional wisdom suggests that we should, too. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), winter is associated with the water element and is a season of nourishment, stillness, silence, and rest.

TCM is one of the oldest healing systems in the world, developed over thousands of years through careful observation of nature and the human body. It teaches that the rhythms of the seasons influence our health, energy, and emotional wellbeing. In winter, the energy of nature moves inward. Plants, animals, and ecosystems conserve their strength rather than spending it.

A tree provides a beautiful example. During spring and summer, a tree is vibrant and productive, growing leaves, blossoms, and fruit. In winter, however, the tree does not try to maintain that same level of activity. Instead, it rests. Its branches become bare, and its energy moves deep into its roots, where it quietly absorbs nourishment from the earth. This period of stillness allows the tree to store strength so that when spring arrives, it can once again grow and flourish.

Animals follow a similar pattern. Bears, for example, hibernate through the winter months. They slow their metabolism and conserve their energy, resting deeply so that they can thrive when the warmer seasons return. In the language of TCM, this is an example of living in harmony with the natural cycle. For humans, this wisdom suggests that winter is not only a time for activity but also a time for restoration. Practices such as Qigong - an ancient Chinese movement and breathing practice - help cultivate this balance. Qigong emphasizes slow, mindful movement, deep breathing, and moments of stillness that nourish the body's internal energy.

Instead of pushing ourselves to remain constantly busy, Qigong encourages us to listen to our bodies and align with the quieter rhythm of winter. This does not mean Canadians must give up skiing, skating, or snowshoeing. These activities connect us to the beauty of the season and keep us healthy and strong.

However, winter also asks us to carve out moments of silence and rest - to enjoy a quiet morning, to sit with a warm drink, or to spend time in reflection. In these simple pauses, we allow ourselves to recharge. By embracing both the activity and the stillness of winter, we learn to live more in tune with nature. Like the tree drawing nourishment through its roots or the bear resting in its den, we can use the winter months to restore our energy. When spring eventually arrives, we too will be ready to step forward with renewed strength and vitality.

letters to the editor

Really Boosting Citizen Power in the Haliburton Highlands

To the Editor,

I read Fay Martin's report with interest, 'Once more into the fray' about Dave Meslin's presentation at the Fish Hatchery Feb. 29. It was part of the Healthy Democracy Project. I was there too.

I would like to form a group to hold a demonstration Single Transferable Vote around the time of the Monday, Oct. 26, municipal election, an experiment.

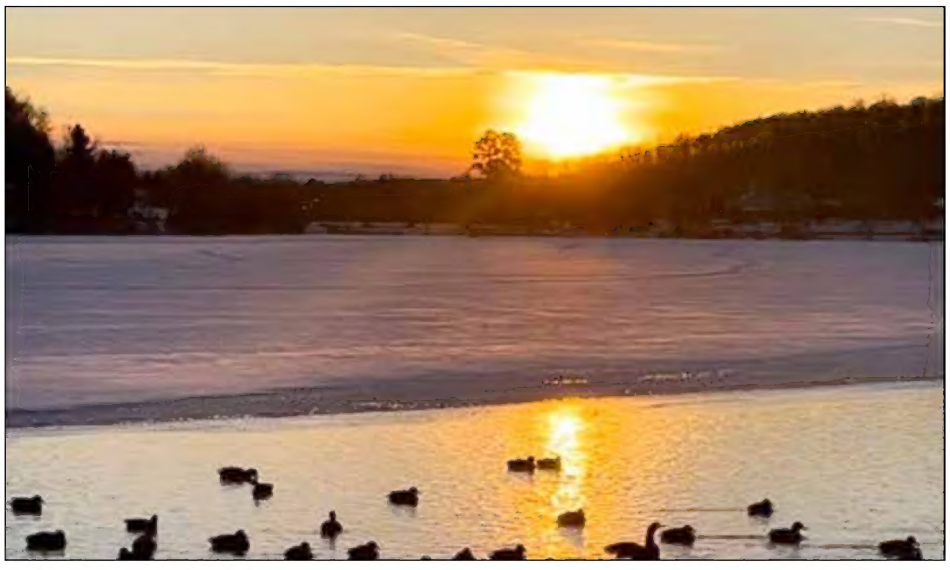
In this experiment each voter would rank all the council candidates in descending order of preference. A readily available free computer programme would produce a revealing result in very short time.

First, there would be no acclamations and all could see the relative popularity of all candidates. And there would not be separate races for mayor, deputy mayor or councillor, simply all candidates in the contest together. A strong mayor? Well the one with the most votes, the one elected first through the winnowing process.

It wouldn't be necessary to rank all candidates but your vote would be less powerful in the final result.

Jim Milne,
Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.



Ice Out returns

It's that time of year again!

For decades now, our newspaper has hosted their annual Ice Out contest, where we ask the community to guess the official date that all ice will be melted from Head Lake. The winner of the contest will receive one full year subscription to the *Haliburton Echo* or the *Minden Times*.

Send your best guesses to emily@haliburtonpress.com for a chance to win. Good luck!

Kelly Short prepping pancake batter for the supper at Lakeside Church. /submitted"

Pancake dinner success

Haliburton Youth Unlimited had a successful second annual pancake fundraiser on Saturday, March 7 at Lakeside Church. Over 100 community members attended to help them raise funds to support their spring programs. Weekly Youth Unlimited provides free after school programs for youth Grades 4-12 at the Bridge Youth Centre in Haliburton. Over 80 youth attend regularly benefitting from the free programming and positive community and activities. If you would like more information about programs or how to donate to support their programming you can visit their website www.yfc.ca/haliburton-highlands/ or contact them at haliburton@kawyu.ca.

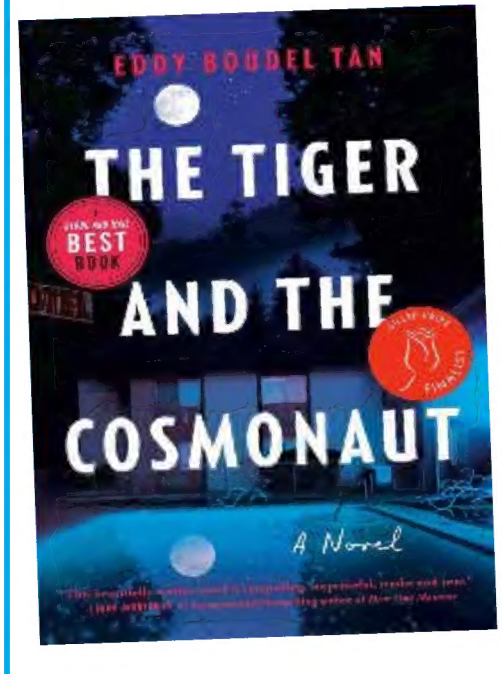
Submitted

Minden Memories

Gladys Wruth shared this circa 1910 photo of members of the Orange Lodge at Peterson Corners, where the group held regular meetings in their local hall. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



Casper Han, the dutiful son of immigrants, has long carried the quiet grief of losing his twin brother. Now an adult living in Vancouver, he rarely returns to his remote hometown - until a family crisis brings him and his siblings back. Their father has vanished, only to be found wandering the woods, seemingly trapped in the memory of that tragic night. As the family confronts long-buried secrets and untangles the mystery of what really happened, they are forced to reckon with the ways they have made themselves small, quiet, and obedient for decades.

The Tiger and the Cosmonaut by Eddy Boudel Tan is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Crowd attends launch of impactful memoir

AMANDA DUNCOMBE–LEE

Guest Columnist

Do with, not for. Find joy and purpose every day. Live 'til you die.

This simple but profound philosophy is a key takeaway from Fay Martin's new memoir, *Dementia Widow: A Memoir about Love, Death, and Survival.* The book centres on her experience caregiving for her late husband, Michael, who died in 2020 after years of living with dementia and the effects of cancer treatment.

75 people were present at the *Dementia Widow* book launch on a mild winter afternoon on March 6 at the Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre in Haliburton, in a highly anticipated event so well attended that the crowd outnumbered available seating. Visitors lined the walls of the gallery and overflowed through the entrance, eager to hear what the author had to say about a subject not often discussed frankly or openly.

Minden-based Martin is a local author, academic, community housing advocate, and retired social worker. She spent fifteen years caregiving for her husband as they grappled with dementia and its ripple effects on their health, marriage, and social lives.

In introducing the content of her book to the audience, Martin cautioned that it was not an autobiography. "The deal between the writer, author and her readers is that the book will deliver what the title promises; neither more nor less," she said.

"In this book you've got dementia, you've got widowhood of two sorts, you've got love, you've got death, and you've got survival. It's a pretty broad scope of things that covers 26 out of the 46 years that Michael and I were together."

Martin said the decision to start her memoir came quickly, and that her journalling over the years helped her recall emotions and events.

"I knew that as soon as he died, I wanted to write," she said. "It was very much an identified part of my self reclamation process."

Martin spoke of enrolling in a two-year MFA program at the University of King's College in Halifax, starting the course on the day of the anniversary of Michael's death. By graduation time, she had become close with several classmates who pushed her to go deeper into her manuscript and write about "those eight ugly years" - the period when her husband's behaviour changed and dementia moved in. She called it "the hardest part, by far, of writing that book."

Author Fay Martin delivered a speech to a full crowd during her book launch on March 6 at the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton. /Amanda Duncombe-Lee

Martin said trying to get her book published was initially a frustrating experience, calling it "soul-sucking." Eventually, she was introduced to Iguana Books, and the ball started rolling.

She gave thanks to her publisher, the gallery, and the friends, family members and professionals that gave the support necessary to publish her memoir and host the launch event.

Martin briefly touched on the four main parts of her memoir, each of which feature a different theme - from those ugly years, when she had to give up on being a wife and begin to learn to be a caregiver, to the last two years of "real widowhood," which she described as "another kind of recovery … you have to find the oneness that was part of the twoness, and that's a work of its own."

In the case of dementia, death is a "very prolonged process that includes 1,000 deaths, and each of them is a loss that must be honoured and must be grieved, and in some cases celebrated, like when you get to be the one who holds the TV remote, right?" said Martin in a moment of lighthearted laughter from the audience.

Martin gave a live reading of the Foreword section of the book, and then took varied questions from the audience about her experiences with visiting an innovative care environment in the Netherlands, the future of aging in Haliburton County, and the writing and research process.

The 'Live 'til you die' mantra in Martin's memoir, which she said was a "thunderclap of recognition" for her, arose during a visit to Green Care Farms in the Netherlands, a small-scale care environment that combines agricultural activities with care services and aims for residents to live independently and meaningfully.

"I think, as a community, it's a real challenge for us to look at that [Netherlands] model and say, what could we be doing differently?" reflected an audience member.

The gallery launch event concluded with a sale of the book and author book signing.

Print copies of *Dementia Widow* are available at independent bookstores, including Masters Bookstore in Haliburton, as well as in varying formats from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, and Apple Books. Martin's daughter, Heather McLeod, narrates the audiobook. Readers can also purchase the book directly from the author by contacting her at fay@faymartin.ca.

Notice
(Applicant – Gallagher/Ruhl)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Contau Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the *Municipal Act, S.O. 2001*, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 7th day of April, 2026**, 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 17, Concession 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11141, **made by IBW Surveyors** completed August 15, 2025. *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey Survey 19R-11141 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 17th day of March, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
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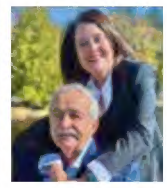

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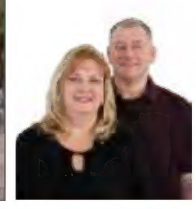

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SPRING HOP

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WHAT FREE Easter fun for all ages! **WHEN** 12-3PM Mar 28 **WHERE** Head Lake Park, Haliburton

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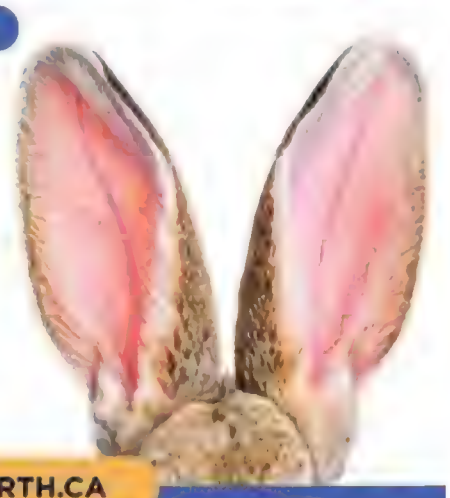
- Face Painting
- Colouring Station
- Pics with the Easter Bunny
- Easter Crafts
- and much, much more!

THIS IS A RAIN, SNOW, OR SHINE EVENT!

A fuzzy friend of ours has also promised a visit...

Hop on over and **Meet the Easter Bunny!**

We'll also be collecting monetary and non-perishable donations for the **Haliburton 4 C's Food Bank** to support local families in need.



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RE/MAX Professionals North, Brokerage will be at the Spring Cottage Life Show.

March 26 - 29

SPRING Cottage Life SHOW

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HE fire says 'busiest year to date'

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Some changes are coming to the Highlands East Fire Department.

Chris Baughman, fire chief for Highlands East, spoke to council on the needs of the department at the HE meeting held on Tuesday, March 10.

Baughman says that once the 2026 budget has been approved, the fire department will be requesting a new pumper for Station 1 in Cardiff, and a side by side trailer and rescue pick up truck for Station 3 in Gooderham.

To save costs, Baughman says that their plan is to do a Request for Proposal for a three quarter ton or heavier pick up truck. The truck would then be outfitted with a cap and storage system, similar to the truck at Station 2 in Highland Grove.

"I noticed that we are having significant increases as we go along," said Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall. "Would that be more an indicator of the number of people we have in our neck of the woods as opposed to what we had before."

"It is our busiest year to date," said Baughman. "We are particularly high in structure fires this year, hopefully that doesn't continue."

Baughman clarified by saying that they have had an increase in emergency calls across the board. At the most recent tri-services committee meeting, emergency personnel reported that all of the municipalities have noticed high call volumes, with the exception of Algonquin Highlands.

"It is pretty early to tell," said Baughman. "Hopefully the weather events and other things going on will reduce that increase or maintain it, I am not sure."

With last week's freezing rain and precipitation, the hope is that calls for fire services goes down.

Baughman filled this discussion by announcing that two new firefighters will be joining the ranks of the Highlands East Firefighters. The two new firefighters appointed to the roster include Peter Russell to Station 2 and Emma Kearns to Station 1. The new recruits will have a 12 month probationary period.

"That's good news from my end that we are getting some new recruits in," said Mayor Dave Burton.

Birch bark canoe to stay at JDH as reminder

from page 1

started to take shape.

Alex has travelled across Ontario showing the traditional methods that are incorporated with building a birch bark canoe. While he's built canoes of all sizes, from only a mere few inches long to over 26 feet, he's diligently been sharing pieces of his family history through every build. "I do it to pass on the tradition," he said. "Through residential schools, this was lost, but I build these canoes to remind people that we are still here."

The week-long build allowed Alex to pull from the forest, in an effort to show kids the entirety of the process. Erin Mcknight-Sisco, a Grade 5 French Immersion teacher at JDH, worked with her students to showcase the build from start to finish. "All of the materials were from the forest. The kids can look outside and identify the same types of trees in their own backyard," said Mcknight-Sisco. "From this, we saw the process of using what nature has provided at first in the form of wood, bark, roots and tree sap turned into a fully functioning canoe. This amazed students who checked in regularly on the process."

The students from the class regularly took photos of the process. With the lobby of the school temporarily converted into Alex's woodshop for the week, the build drew attention from the school as a whole. "Many students have even spent their lunches and recesses learning from and connecting with Alex as he worked on the canoe," said David Waito, the principal at JDH. "We hope that these experiences continue to build relationships and deepen our engagement with and understanding of Indigenous perspectives."

McKnight-Sisco noted that beyond the traditional insight around the build itself, the learning ran much deeper than the curriculum. "Students were making good connections back to science, STEM, math, social studies, etcetera," she said. "I think that our students also were able to make connections to how we can be good ancestors to the land … His craft has been passed down through his family through generations and I think the students learned the importance of that gift."

After five full days, the canoe was completed on Friday, March 6. The final product will reside at JDH, as a reminder of the event, and the importance of Indigenous history to the community. "It's definitely rewarding to do this," said Alex. "Seeing the kids' faces, seeing that they are actually interested in learning more about our heritage and our traditions, it feels really good."

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Sleeping in Cars to raise awareness

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

It is important to make a difference in your local community, no matter how unseen the cause is.

That is what the Places for People Sleeping in Cars event is all about.

Poverty and unstable housing plagues a large percentage of people in Haliburton County.

We just do not always see it.

It could be someone sleeping in a tent in a backyard, a car in a friend's driveway, a trailer, or a truck.

No matter the method, the stigmas around housing poverty persist in the County, whether we see it or not.

The Sleeping in Cars event is not just to pretend what it is like to sleep in your car, it is about bringing awareness to what it feels like to have housing uncertainty. Through stories shared by current Places for People housing tenants, people can hear their journey, their struggles, and what stable housing means to them.

Nataly Mylan, co-chair of the marketing and fundraising committee for Places for People, says that this year's Sleeping in Cars will be the biggest one yet.

New to the event this year, there will be live music, a S'mores bar, a supper served, and a trivia night held. Like last year, there will be fires to warm up beside, a light breakfast, and hot coffee served in the morning.

Prizes will be given out for the highest funds raised and the best prepared and decorated vehicles

Participants and visitors are asked to be at the Head Lake Park parking lot at 6 p.m. Speeches will begin at 7 p.m. with events lasting throughout the evening.

"The event is a simple, but powerful way to get people out of their comfort zones," said Mylan. "You walk away so lucky and grateful."

The event mobilizes people to advocate for local housing solutions. It strives to break the not-in-my-backyard cycle of refusing to build affordable housing.

"Everybody deserves a home and we are a community that believes that neighbours help neighbours," said Mylan.

The organization's goal is $60,000 from the fundraiser, with the funds being used towards their housing projects, such as their planned 35-unit affordable housing development on Peninsula Road in Haliburton. The build is set to be partially used by Habitat for Humanity and partially by Places for People.

While they are still in the early phases of the plans, Mylan says that the organization hopes to break ground in 2027.

Just recently, Mylan has said that Places for People is looking at another property to convert to affordable housing. The deal will not be finalized for a few weeks, says Mylan.

Boshkung Brewing, The Millpond Restaurant and Haliburton Cleaning all have initiatives donating towards the Sleeping in Cars event. One dollar per beer sold at Boshkung, a dollar per coffee at the Millpond, and 10 per cent of revenue from Haliburton Cleaning will be donated to Places for People for this month.

ACM Designs is another sponsor of the event, with many other groups and individuals participating along the way.

"It is getting the community to come out and support each other in such an open and honest way," said Mylan.

Whether you are sleeping overnight, donating towards the cause, or coming to the event for the evening to cheer people on, the event is welcome to the entire community.

Unstable housing affects everyone in our community. The fewer people that can afford to live here, the worse off we are for businesses like restaurants, mechanics, and retail spaces.

The more people that cannot create roots in Haliburton, the less services we have to offer visitors.

Unstable and unaffordable housing affects the ability for Haliburton County to sustain itself and the local economy.

If you are interested in participating in the event or supporting the cause, please visit placesforpeople.ca for more information.

Easter Event welcomes all ages

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

During a grey time of year, it's important to remember that spring is just around the corner.

That's what Braden and Morgan Roberts want to bring to the community.

Through running Roberts Realty, the couple have put together a community Easter event that promises to be fun for the whole family.

"There's so many things we want to do to support the community," said Morgan during a recent phone interview. "And as a young family, there's so much to do here, and we just want to be a part of it."

On Sunday, March 28, the Roberts' will be hosting their first ever Easter Event at the Haliburton Legion, featuring an egg hunt, crafts, sweet treats, and even a visit from the Easter Bunny himself.

"We wanted to make a fun little event that's completely free," said Morgan. "Anyone can come, any age, whoever wants to go on an Easter egg hunt is welcome."

While the couple have called the Haliburton Highlands home for many years, they started to see the community through a new lens after the birth of their daughter, Georgia, in 2024. "We wanted to give back to the community," said Morgan. "There's so much to do here with kids, so we wanted to add to that."

Morgan noted that the local Tim Hortons has donated Timbits and hot chocolate for the day, with sweet treats being offered during the egg hunt as well.

Joining the fun will be Eleanor Dobbins, a professional photographer, who will be taking family photos for anyone interested at the event. The photos will be emailed directly to the clients, and not shared publicly. "That's free as well," said Morgan. "We know young families are so busy, and maybe don't have time to get their pictures taken, so this is a chance for them to get those photos."

The Easter Event will be running at the Haliburton Legion on Sunday, March 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend, free of charge.

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A winter walk to remember

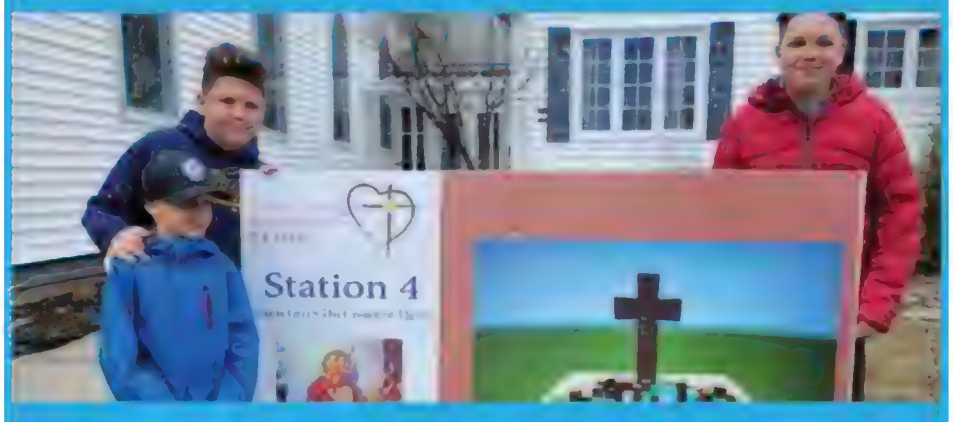
Walkabout Farms in Minden hosted a Hike with Horse event this past weekend, where the community was invited to partake in a snowy wander through the woods with the resident ponies. People of all ages came out to visit the horses and other critters at the farm, while contributing to a good cause in the community. Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association Inc. is a registered charitable organization that provides no cost therapeutic and adaptive horseback riding, equine experiential opportunities, equine assisted therapy, and youth outreach initiatives in the Haliburton Highlands

w/TIM YANO staff photographer

HALIBURTON STATIONS OF THE CROSS TOUR

Where Art & Faith Intersect throughout Haliburton County

March 26 - April 6, 2026



Take a spiritual road trip through Haliburton County and experience Jesus' journey to the cross through stunning local artwork. This outdoor, drive-by, self-guided tour is a chance to reflect, connect, and prepare your heart for Easter.

See unique artwork showcased in front of each church location indicated on the map.

Highlands Little Theatre Presents

Calendar Girls

By Tim Firth

Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

Directed by Jack Brezina

March 24th, 25th, 27th at 7pm and March 28th at 2pm

Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

A hilarious and heartwarming show about love, friendship and the power of a great idea!

Featuring: Norma Bingham, Elyse Boisvert, Kate Butler, Karen Frybort, Renée Griffith, Kate Hall, John Jackson, Rita Jackson, Christine Jonas-Simpson, Jordan Kovacs, Cathy McIlmurray, Elizabeth Oakley and David Zilstra

Scan for tickets!

Tickets: $25

www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/calendar-girls-tuesday-march--24
www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/calendar-girls-wednesday-march--25
www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/calendar-girls-friday-march--27
www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/calendar-girls-saturday-march-28-matinee

"Calendar Girls" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc
www.concordtheatricals.com

Highlands Little Theatre is a proud part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative.

Huskies Hockey

In a hard-fought series in the first round of this year's playoffs, the Haliburton County Huskies battled the Newmarket Hurricanes. During what would be their last home game of the season, the Huskies came out on top last Thursday with a score of 2-1 against the visiting team. Unfortunately their luck ran out in game five, where the Huskies toppled to Newmarket with a score of 3-2 while in Newmarket. With Ryan Ramsay stepping in as owner of the young team, there will be a confirmed local season kicking off next year. Congrats to the team for bringing the community together. /TIM YANO staff photographer

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Seeking Community Advisory

Committee Members for 2026/27

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is seeking community-minded individuals with recent experience as a patient, client, or resident who are interested in serving on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). CAC members are responsible for providing advice and insight to HHHS' Board of Directors on the delivery and future planning of community services in Haliburton County. The CAC will also share insights on community trends, issues, and feedback.

Key functions of the Community Advisory Committee will include providing insight on:

- Needs of community services clients
- The unique and diverse needs of the Haliburton County community
- Further opportunities for partnership and collaboration
- Best approaches for communicating with the community
- Feedback on the delivery of community services and future planning for services

The Committee generally meets on Thursday mornings 7 times per year

If you feel you have the time, energy and commitment to be a member of this year's Community Advisory Committee, then we would like to hear from you by April 14, 2026.

For further information and an application package, please contact: Michel Henry via email at mhenry@hhhs.ca OR phone Michel at (705) 457-1392 Extension 2248.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Board Member Recruitment for 2026/2027

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Emergency and Inpatient, Long-Term Care, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member of our Board of Directors or as a Community Representative on one of the Board's Standing Committees.

At a minimum, board members should expect to devote approximately 10 hours of time per month to HHHS business, including attendance at monthly board and committee meetings both in-person and virtually.

Annual board recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with a background in legal, and in construction, engineering or project management. We also continue to look for individuals with backgrounds in governance, finance & accounting, clinical and patient & healthcare advocacy.**

How to be Considered

Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by April 14, 2026. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at: https://hhhs.ca/governance/leadership-board-and-management

Inquiries can be directed to:
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

Kwarky

"Last week you said we're allowed a few personal purchases without judgment."

Brought to you by

SUDOKU

1		7			2		3	
		3	7	4	9	5		
		4		1			6	7
		6					9	
						7		6
	2			8	3			4
					1			
	3				5	8		9
5			4		6	2	1	

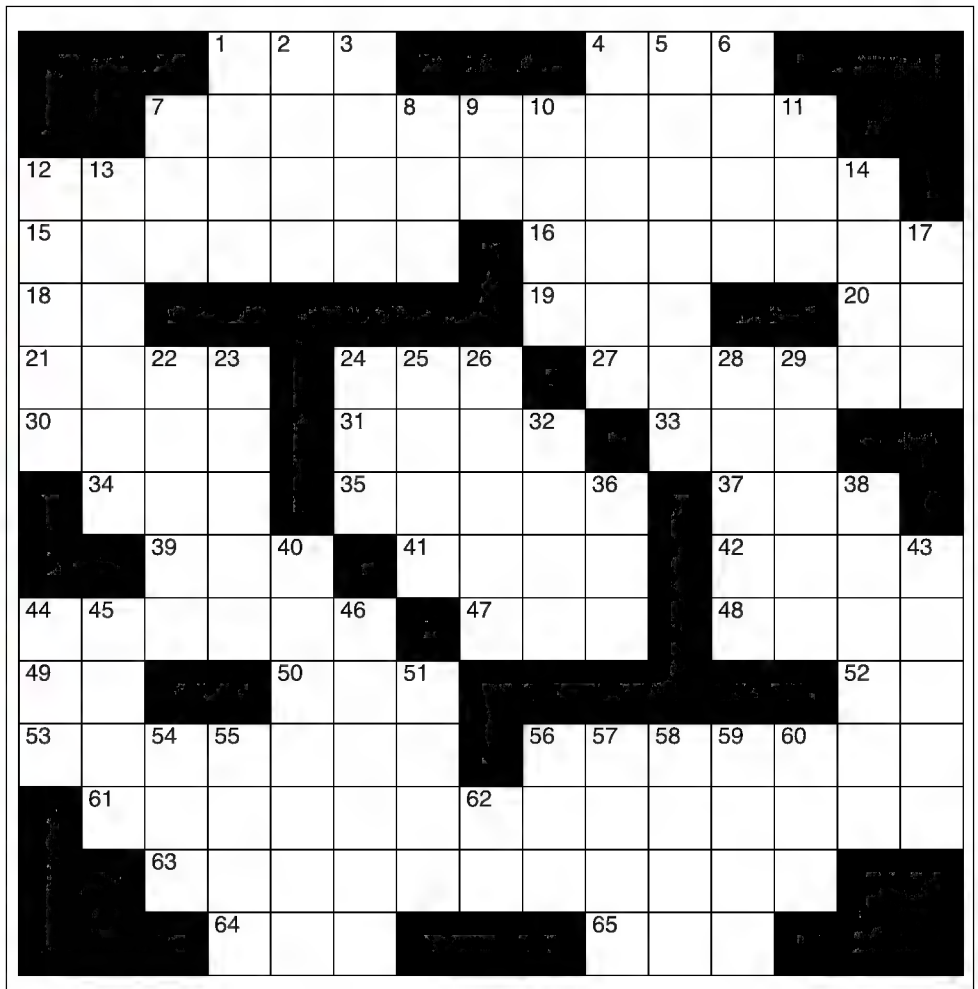
Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 19



CLUES ACROSS
1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteyer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard
39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN
1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear
4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre __-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

Answers on page 19

Easter in the Gardens Returns to Abbey Gardens

Families are invited to celebrate spring at Easter in the Gardens at Abbey Gardens on Saturday, April 4. The popular annual event features an Easter egg hunt along the Chickadee Trail, where children will search for eggs left behind by the Easter Bunny.

The event will run-in two-time slots, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., allowing more families to take part. Participants are encouraged to bring their own baskets for the egg hunt.

Admission includes a special surprise for collecting eggs, a prize bag for completing the scavenger hunt, a cookie decorating kit, a craft kit, photos with the Easter Bunny, and selfie opportunities with the Abbey Gardens ponies.

"Easter in the Gardens is a favourite event for local families, and we're excited to kick off our 2026 season with this celebration," said Angela Kruger, executive director of Abbey Gardens.

Food and refreshments will be available at a festival snack bar and in the Food Hub, with take-home meal options also available.

The event typically sells out. Tickets and details are available at abbeygardens.ca.

About Abbey Gardens

Since 2009, donor support has helped transform a 300-acre former gravel pit into a thriving natural landscape and vibrant community resource. Today, Abbey Gardens is a living laboratory, where nature is our teacher, generating lasting ecological, educational, and economic benefits for residents and visitors across the Haliburton Highlands. Each year, more than 50,000 people explore our grounds, experiencing what is possible when restoration and sustainability are put into action in a changing climate.

Submitted

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ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF RESEARCH

March 28th, 11:00-3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker & Panelist:
Karen Thompson, Ph.D., B.Sc., Trent University

Sustainable Agriculture & Community Wellness Panel:
Sue Tiffin, Director of Community Outreach, County of Haliburton
Godfrey Tyler, Fourth Generation Farmer, Waverly Brook Farms
Jennifer Semach, Executive Director, Walkabout Farms

Featured Student Research Presentations:
Viability of Artificial Loon Nesting Platforms
A Study on the Feasibility of Underground Greenhouses
Assessment of Carbon Stocks for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
Delineating the Velocity of Climate Change
Impact of Recreation Trails on Soils & Vegetation in Deciduous Forests
A Feasibility Study of a Municipal Bio-digester

Plus 40 research posters by Trent & Guelph University Students

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton
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Tenders

The Municipality of Dysart et al invites vendors to submit bids for any or all tenders:

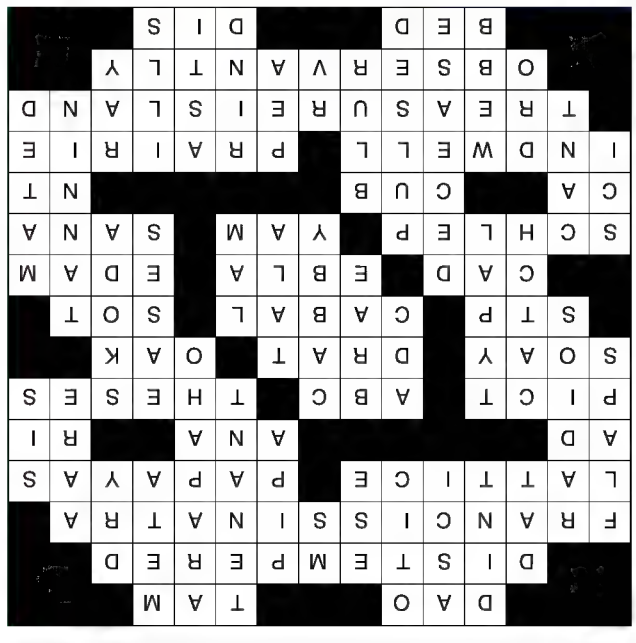
CLOSING APRIL 3rd, 2026

- **2026-PW-08 Pavement Markings**
- **2026-PW-09 Roadside Mowing**
- **2026-PW-10 Mechanical Brushing**
- **2026-PW-11 Supply of Sand for Landfill Cover**
- **2026-PW-12 Supply of Topsoil for Landfill Cover**

Register at no cost, view all bid opportunities, and submit your bid online at:
dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca
Printed or emailed submissions are not accepted

Municipality of Dysart et al
705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



SUDOKU SOLUTION

1	9	7	5	6	2	4	3	8
8	6	3	7	4	9	5	2	1
2	5	4	3	1	8	9	6	7
4	8	6	1	5	7	3	9	2
3	1	5	9	2	4	7	8	6
7	2	9	6	8	3	1	5	4
9	4	2	8	3	1	6	7	5
6	3	1	2	7	5	8	4	9
5	7	8	4	9	6	2	1	3

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Newly renovated 2-unit house on 9.5 scenic acres near Haliburton. LOWER: 1-bed, 1-bath. Features open-concept living, new appliances, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces. 10 minutes from Haliburton & perfect for peaceful living. Contact: info@aboveboardcarpentry.com **705-455-2196**

Spacious one bedroom, one bath lower apartment located in the heart of Minden. The apartment provides a perfect blend of town and country living. Features include front door access, open concept living, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces, internet and preferential parking spots. $1,875 All inclusive plus shared hydro. Please Contact: **647-394-4899**. Photos available upon request.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Carpenter's Assistant Wanted starting in May. Individuals who are fit, dependable and motivated to learn about building construction will excel. Terms negotiable. Send resume to **washaquon@hotmail.com**

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Love the outdoors?

Camp Towhee is hiring a **Property Manager** to maintain cabins, trails, docks, and facilities at CDI's therapeutic summer camp for youth. Hands-on maintenance experience required. Seasonal contract May–Sept. Valid driver's licence required. Pay is $62,400 annualized (pro-rated for the contract) plus $2,050 completion bonus. To learn more and apply, please visit **https://childdevelop.ca/about-us/join-our-team/**

25 words. Your ad will run in The Echo, The Times & County Life. **Only $15** +HST *Call us today!*

Support your community — apply for a census job! Statistics Canada is hiring in your community for the 2026 Census. Join the census team and help collect the information that shapes programs and services people rely on every day. Census jobs offer flexible, short-term employment and the chance to contribute to data collection activities. Census information is used to plan programs and services that support employment, education, public transportation and health care. Key facts There are approximately 32,000 census jobs available across Canada. Pay is $25.87 per hour for non-supervisory positions and $31.32 per hour for supervisory positions, plus authorized expenses. The time frame for census jobs is between March and July 2026 depending on the position and location. You must be available to work flexible hours including days, evenings, and weekends. Join the 2026 Census team for meaningful work and community impact! **Apply now: census.gc.ca/jobs.**

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for the following seasonal roles:

One (1) Seasonal 1 Operator/Labourer
DZ licence and experience with road maintenance and repair required.
Hourly rate is $28.43. Unionized CUPE position.

Three (3) Flagperson/ Labourer(s)
G licence and experience in manual labour positions required.
Hourly rate is $21.28.
Unionized CUPE position.

One (1) Engineering (Seasonal) Student
G licence and current enrolment in an engineering program required.
Hourly rate is $26.36. Unionized CUPE position.

One (1) Seasonal Capital Projects Inspector
G licence and at least five (5) years of related municipal experience.
Hourly rate is $36.08. Unionized CUPE position.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to **shume@haliburtoncounty.ca** no later than **March 27, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Cybersecurity Analyst
Reporting to the Director of IT, the newly created role of Cybersecurity Analyst provides functional leadership for the County's cybersecurity program and leads day-to-day information security operations The successful applicant will possess post-secondary education in IT or a related discipline and three (3) years of progressive experience. This position is eligible for remote work.

One (1) Administrative Clerk
Reporting to the Executive Assistant, the Administrative Clerk provides a range of clerical and administrative support such as preparing meeting materials, taking minutes, maintaining filing systems. The successful candidate will possess related administrative experience and demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office 365. The 2026 hourly rate for this unionized CUPE 1960 position is $27.00.

Full-time employment with the County of Haliburton includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and comprehensive, employer paid extended healthcare benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 20, 2026, at 4:30pm.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

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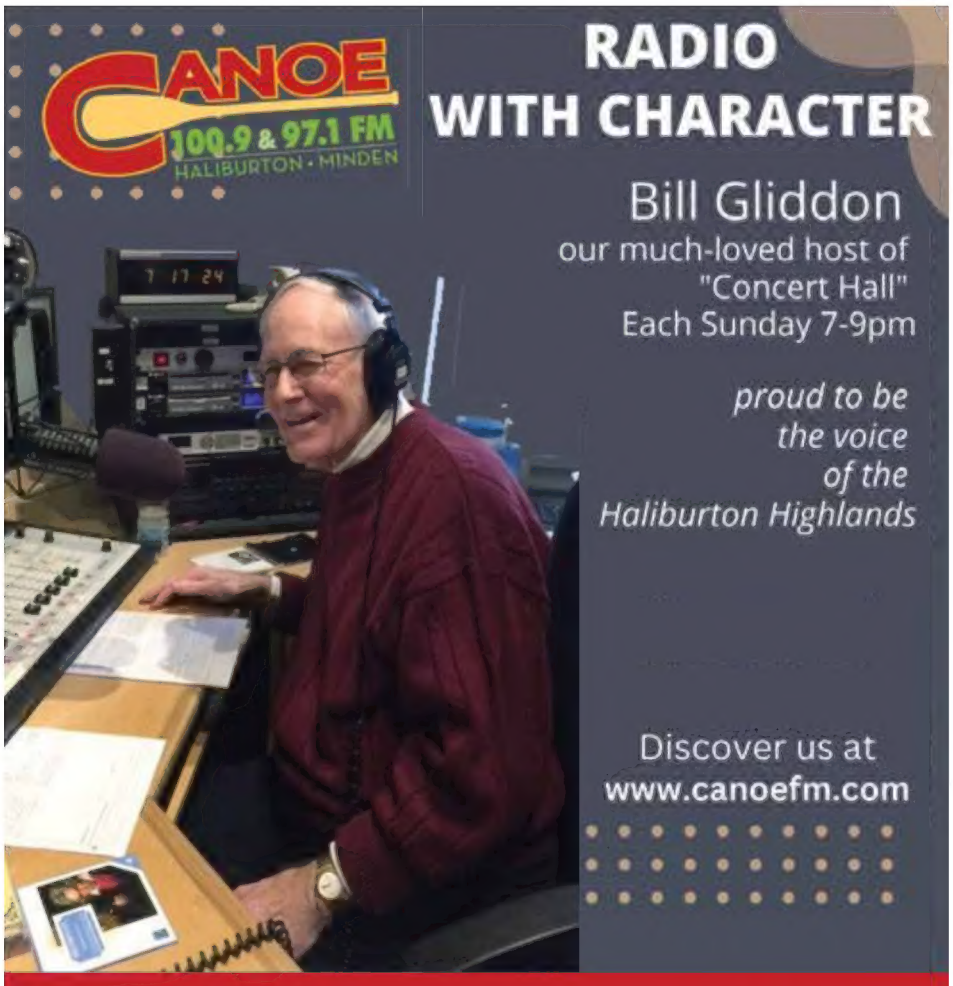

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Audrey A. Wunker (nee Austin)

12 Nov 1925 – 13 Mar 2026

In her 101st year. Audrey was born and raised in Kinmount, Ontario; predeceased by Don, her husband of 76 years, her parents Albert Otto Austin & Myrtle Irene (nee English), as well as brothers William George (Bill) Austin and Bryan James Austin.

Audrey & Don were married in 1948 at the Stone Church at Miners' Bay. In 1952 Audrey & Don were accepted by UFM (Unevangelized Fields Mission) and moved to the Domincan Republic. There they remained as missionaries until 1993 when they retired to Minden and then they moved to Toronto in 2009.

Survived by and greatly missed by children Randy (Gail) of Minden, David (Anne) of Etobicoke and Janice of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 5 grandchildren: Magali Callies (Pablo), Adam Wunker (Darcey), Claire Wunker (Nick), Joe Seijas, Jennifer Seijas (Joel); and 5 great-grandchildren: Gabriella, Asha, Rohan, Dylan & Liam.

Cremation has taken place. Interment will be at Pine Grove Cemetery, Norland, at a future date.

In Loving Memory of

Donald Lindsay Ballantyne

(April 26, 1937- March 5, 2026)

It is with love and profound gratitude for a life well lived that we announce the peaceful passing of our father, Donald Lindsay Ballantyne, on the morning of March 5th, 2026, at Hyland Crest Retirement Home.

Don was born to Reginald and Mae Ballantyne April 26, 1937, in Regina, Saskatchewan. The family soon after moved to Toronto, where his sister, Jean, was born. Don spent his early years developing a love for cottage country, hunting and fishing with his best friend Robert Willson, and cheering on his beloved hockey team, the Toronto Maple Leafs. But his world was forever changed when he met the love of his life, Nancy.

Don and Nancy were married Oct 5, 1960, in East Kilbride, Scotland. They had four children, Rob, Jane, Linda and John and eventually settled in Scarborough. He had a thriving career that had him employed with General Electric, General Foods, GSW and Standard Modern Technologies. He steadily worked his way up through corporations and was part of many innovations, including restaurant chains like The Crock and Block and even the creation of peach flavoured Jello and Pop Rocks. Later in his career, he and Nancy opened Aquarium Services pet stores in Hamilton.

But more than anything, our dad was defined by his enthusiasm for leisure activities. An avid sports enthusiast, he loved hockey, curling, golf, fishing and hunting. He instilled these passions in his children, managing hockey teams, curling in family bonspiels and, of course, taking them fishing… insisting each kid was given their own fishing rod at the age of 10. He taught us that if you caught a "keeper" you were responsible for cleaning it and that the fish were biting best when it rained. This we learned at 7 am one rainy morning… as he stayed in bed.

The cottage was his special place. Little Canning Lake was his version of heaven… and it grew to be ours as well. He loved the cottage life and noted each time he left to go back to the city that the sun was on the rocks-- begging him to stay. He'd say, "One day I'll retire up at the cottage". In time, he and Mum finally realized their dream and retired up north to Little Canning Lake. Dad and Mum took to the Minden life with ease. They joined the Minden Curling Club, were active members of Minden United Church, formed bridge clubs and forged strong friendships with many locals. They were living their best life.

Perhaps Dad and Mum's greatest source of pride and joy were the happy marriages of all four children… which in turn gave them their 12 grandchildren and 4 great- grandchildren. They loved their grandkids and loved even more hearing about the trials and tribulations each one brought to their parents. Typical of Dad, on their 10th birthdays he gave each a fishing rod. He also insisted on taking all the grandchildren to Disney World where they were to meet the "other woman in his life" -- Minnie Mouse. These magical moments inspired unique generational relationships and fueled many classic Grampa stories from the kids.

The years marched on and when the cottage surroundings became unsafe in their later years, Dad and Mum moved into a condo on Head Lake in Haliburton but insisted the cottage still be available to the family. Ultimately the two ended up in Hyland Crest

Long-term Care where Mum continues to reside. And of course, on Dad's final day of life, with a spectacular sunset, the sun was on the rocks.

Don is survived by his wife Nancy, children Rob (Sarah Wood), Jane (John Macpherson), Linda (Jim Kinney) and John (Linda Hutton), his grandchildren Sarah (Chris Woodward), Lauren (Ben Sadowski), Brian, Madeline, Shea, Jackie, Mark, Ben, Sam, Arden, Jack and Ray, and great-grandchildren Emma, Brady, Alice and Theo.

A private family memorial for Don will be held this summer at Little Canning Lake. Special thanks to the kind and caring staff at Hyland Crest Long-term Care. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Minden Food Centre and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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An early Sunday morning blaze has left four families without a place to live and gutted one of Minden's older houses.

The fire, in the first house on Orde Street, (immediately behind the Tastee Treat), was reported at about 6 a.m. According to Katie Perry, one of the tenants of the four apartments in the house, she heard a loud noise or explosion, "...and then smoke started pouring through the registers."

She quickly got dressed and fled the building after alerting other tenants. The residents escaped with little more than the clothes they were wearing. Items left behind were either destroyed by the flames or sustained smoke and water damage.

Fire Chief Bill Hogg said, at the scene, it was too early to determine the cause, but he thought it started at the back of the building. The firefighters had difficulty getting to the heart of the blaze because of the age of the building and the many renovations which had taken place over the years. The building is believed to be over 100 years old. Firefighters were also hampered by the chilly temperatures as they attempted to extinguish the blaze.

Left homeless were Tina Trumbull, Charles Kent, Nick George and Tammy Madill and their son, and Katie Perry and Cameron Dydyk. The house is owned by Jimmy Walker of Minden.

No estimate of loss was available. No one was hurt in the blaze.

Snowdon council states its terms

by Jerry Grozelle

Snowdon Township's vision of county restructuring was a hot topic of discussion at both the Stanhope and Anson, Hindon and Minden council meetings last week. Earlier this month, members of Snowdon council were set to pass a resolution calling in a provincial commissioner to deal with municipal restructuring in the county. But elected officials from eight of the other nine municipalities attended the Snowdon meeting and convinced the elected officials to delay any action. The council agreed to a 60-day delay, with the understanding that a plan of action would be developed for the county. As well, Snowdon council was asked to clearly identify its concerns. It was this list of concerns and calls for action, which sparked debate in the other councils this past week.

See also:
■ Snowdon's demands — page 2

Apparently dissatisfied with the progress the county was making with regard to restructuring, Snowdon reeve George Simmons announced at the February county council meeting that Snowdon would likely be requesting a provincial restructuring commissioner to examine the Haliburton County situation and make a ruling regarding the status of municipal government. Calling in a commissioner would effectively take the decision-making process out of the hands of the municipalities within Haliburton County. Any decision from the commissioner would be binding on all parties and could not be challenged. Naturally, that ultimatum did not sit well with the other municipal officials.

In general, the members of the two councils who met this week felt they were already working toward a goal of streamlining operations and making municipal and county operations leaner and more efficient. Negotiations between municipalities have been taking place for several months in an attempt to reach agreement on sharing services, personnel and equipment.

After perusing copies of what Snowdon Township council outlined as objectives, members of both Anson, Hindon and Minden and Stanhope councils responded by saying that the goals expressed in the document are virtually identical to those which the municipalities have undertaken.

"We are currently working toward those items," Stanhope reeve Jock Mavor said at last Wednesday's meeting. "I don't see any problem with anything they (Snowdon council members) have specified."

Councillor Ann Barker was concerned that "one council in the county is dictating to the rest."

"It may be a little heavy handed," Mavor said, "but I concur with the content. They want some positive action."

Anson, Hindon and Minden deputy-reeve Jerry Rome commented: "Ninety per cent of what they are saying is being looked at."

Reeve Jeanne Anthon wondered aloud if all of Snowdon councillors are aware of the progress that is being made

(more on page 4)

Minden woman survives lake plunge

by Andrew Milne

A Minden woman had a close call recently when the snow machine she was riding plunged into the water of Twelve Mile Lake March 7.

Terry Lynn Fairey — an RPN at Minden hospital — guesses she was in the frigid water around fifteen minutes while Barry Thompson — a friend who had been riding on another machine — fought to pull her out.

Fairey believes she owes her life to Thompson, who struggled alone at the edge of the ice in the darkness to rescue her even after she'd given up hope.

"I told him actually I didn't think I could swim any more, and just to let me go. But he wouldn't — he just kept me kicking and going."

Thompson himself also slid briefly into the water while trying to pull Fairey out, but was able to roll himself back onto the ice.

Finally, says Fairey, she was able to kick just hard enough to get partially on top of a broken piece of ice, and Thompson was able to roll her onto solid ice.

Cottagers nearby on the lake had arrived by the time Thompson got Fairey out of the water, and took her to a cottage to warm up, and then by 4x4 to the landing.

Fairey wasn't a regular snowmobiler. Saturday was only her second time on a machine. She and Thompson became lost, she says, in the gloom, and accidentally went into thewater at the narrows.

Fairey

Thompson

Says Fairey, "I lost his taillight. And I think he wasn't sure where he was... Then I lost where I was... I realized I was on open water, and I gave it the gas so I could get over to where the ice was and the machine could start to pull, but the ice just kept breaking."

She guesses the place where the machine went in was about the middle of the lake, just where the narrows

(more on page 3)

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